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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,179	01/02/2004	Jui-Huang Chung	T-1288	3331

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EXAMINER

DINH, PHUONG K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/751,179

Applicant(s)

CHUNG, JUI-HUANG

Examiner

Phuong KT Dinh

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 6, 10, 13, 15 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2-3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 are objected to because of the following informalities:
2. Claim 2, "the mediate portion", "the bottom portion" have no antecedent basis.
3. Claim 3, "the top portion" has no antecedent basis.
4. Claim 2 is confusing, line 2, term "the bottom portion" should be changed to - - a bottom portion of the plug - -.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 6, 10, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang (U. S. Patent 6,071,144) in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA).
7. Regarding claim 1, Tang, see figures 11, 33A, 33B discloses a waterproof of splitter box comprising: a hollow casing 12 with threaded sleeves integrally extending out the hollow casing; plastic inserts 86 each securely received in a corresponding one of the threaded sleeves 12 and defined therein a path; rubber plugs 88 each received in the path of a corresponding one of the plastic inserts 86; connecting blades 92 each extending into a corresponding one of the plastic inserts 86 and out of the rubber plug

88 which is received in the plastic insert 86, whereby engagement between the connecting blade 92 and the rubber plug prevents moisture from entering the hollow casing so that the transmitted signal is steady. Tang discloses the claimed invention except for signal wires. APA discloses signal wires at 80. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tang to provide the signal wires as taught by APA so as to provide the complete circuitry.

8. Regarding claim 6, Tang, see figures 33A, 33B, discloses the plastic insert 86' has positioning plates (near to center of contacts) formed on an inner periphery of the plastic insert 86' such that after the extension of the connecting blade, the positioning places are able to secure the connecting blade inside the plastic insert.

9. Regarding claim 10, Tang, see figures 33A, 33B, discloses the rubber plug 284, 286 has a passage longitudinally defined through the rubber plug to expedite the extension of the connecting blade 92', the bottom portion of the rubber plug is configured in such a way that after the bottom portion of the rubber plug is received the hollow plastic insert, the rubber plug is immovable relative to the plastic insert 86'.

10. Claims 4, 8, 13, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang (U. S. Patent 6,071,144) in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA) and further in view of Cull (U. S. Patent 5,147,221).

11. Regarding claims 4, 8, 13 and 17, Tang and APA disclose the claimed invention except for the plastic insert has ribs longitudinally formed on an outer periphery of the plastic insert. Cull discloses ribs at 80. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tang and APA to provide the ribs as taught by Cull so as to provide for holding insert in a secured position.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong KT Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 -5, 5 days a week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phuong Dinh', is written over a horizontal line.

Phuong Dinh
October 29, 2005.

Phuong KT Dinh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839